

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly oppose HB 1229. Each legislative session I am in awe that this is still being discussed after the majority of ND citizens have strongly stated they support ND's Smoke-Free air law. It is 2023! We know the dangers of cigar use as well as the negative effects of secondhand cigar use as it has been proven for years. Cigar smoking is dangerous. They contain high levels of cancer-causing agents as well as higher levels of toxins compared to even cigarettes. Why would we choose to expose employees or patrons to these risks when they enter an establishment?

I work in the healthcare field, and we are already in a healthcare crisis with staffing shortages, and increased workloads as the volume of patients are continually rising as some of our "baby boomers" age. Many of them are suffering from the effects tobacco use has caused them. WE KNOW BETTER NOW! Why would we support a bill that would allow exposing people to these dangerous effects? While vaping has become a pediatric epidemic and we have a serious health crisis to address with that, why are we continuing to discuss the remote possibility of allowing cigar use indoors?

I know we can continue to do the right thing for North Dakotans. Please, continue to support Smoke-Free air and oppose HB 1229.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rieniets